

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Grabbe '369 alone or in view of Volz and Isaac. Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grabbe '369 in view of Volz, Isaac and Grabbe 826. Claims 1-10 and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by McHugh alone or in view of Isaac, Volz and Grabbe '369. Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over McHugh and further in view of Grabbe '826.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 9 and 15 have been amended to specify that the connection pins extend from a surface "of a housing" . . . "with respective tips of the end section being arranged outside the housing." In addition, these claims have been amended to specify that that the configuration of the connection pins avoids "contact between a bent back end section of a first connection pin and a bent back end section of an adjacent second connection pin when the socket or adapter device is mounted to the contact device, and the connection of the connection pins too the contact device are by solderless surface mounting."

Grabbe '369 and McHugh do not show end sections of connection pins of a socket or adapter device having a shape bent back in an upward direction with respective tips of the end sections being arranged outside a housing of the socket or adapter device as claimed. In Grabbe '369 and McHugh, the tips are within the housing (See FIG. 5 of Grabbe '369 and FIGs. 6 and 7 of McHugh).

Since the tips are within the housing in Grabbe '369 and McHugh, the tip of an end section of a first connection pin can not contact an adjacent pin since they are guided within the housing.

Accordingly, Grabbe '369 and McHugh do not disclose or suggest the claimed arrangement for avoiding contact between pins. Finally, in Grabbe '369 the end sections 56 of pins 40 are bent back, but middle sections 50 are straight (see e.g. Figures 5, 7).

Isaac and Volz are only cited as disclosing sockets for testing. And Grabbe '826 is only cited to show fasteners. Accordingly, these references fail to disclose or suggest the elements discussed above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **543822003100**.

Dated: March 1, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jonathan Bockman

Registration No.: 45,640
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 760-7769